

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the subject application. Claims 15-20, 25 and 26 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 8 are independent.

The courtesies extended by Examiner Do to applicants' representative, Jay Beale, during a personal interview conducted on June 29, 2006, are acknowledged and appreciated. The substance of the interview is set forth in the Examiner's Interview Summary and in the following Applicant Initiated Interview Summary.

A. Applicant Initiated Interview Summary

On June 29, 2006, an applicant initiated personal interview was conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b), applicants' summary of that interview is as follows:

1. Brief Description of any Exhibit Shown

No exhibit was shown or demonstrated during the interview.

2. Identification of the Claims Discussed

The Examiner and applicants' representative discussed independent claims 1 and 8.

3. Identification of the Specific Prior Art Discussed

The Examiner and applicants' representative discussed U.S. Patent No. 6,158,844 to Murakami et al. ("the Murakami et al. reference").

4. Identification of the Proposed Amendments

No amendments were proposed during the interview.

5. Summary of the Arguments Presented to the Examiner

Applicants' representative presented arguments regarding the failure of the Murakami et al. reference to disclose the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 8. More specifically, applicants' representative argued that the Murakami et al. reference describes a

recording system that operates by forming a charge on a platen, then developing an opposite charge in fluid to be ejected, such that the fluid is attracted to a recording medium disposed on the platen by way of ionic attraction between the charged fluid and the platen. Applicants' representative also argued that the Murakami et al. reference fails to disclose "generating an ion wind," "ionizing air" and "expelling the fluid from the nozzle as the ion wind decreases a pressure around the outlet of the nozzle," as recited in independent claim 1. Applicants' representative further argued that the Murakami et al. reference fails to disclose similar limitations in independent claim 8.

6. General Indication of Other Pertinent Matters Discussed

No other pertinent matters were discussed during the interview.

7. General Outcome of the Interview

The Examiner and applicants' representative agreed on the nature of the subject matter recited in independent claims 1 and 8. However, the Examiner indicated that further review of the Murakami et al. reference would be required before reaching any conclusions as to whether the outstanding rejections based thereon would be withdrawn. The Examiner also indicated that further searching may be required.

B. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the Murakami et al. reference fails to disclose, or even suggest, each and every element recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 8, as well as claims 2-14, 21-24 and 27 depending therefrom, are allowable over the cited prior art. Further, as independent claim 8 is generic to withdrawn claims 15-20, 25 and 26, applicants respectfully request that the election of species requirement of January 4, 2006, be withdrawn and claims 15-20, 25 and 26 be rejoined.

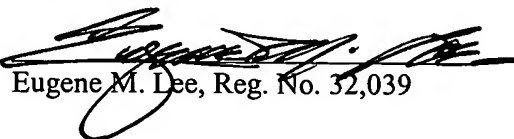
If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & MORSE, P.C.

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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying-papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.